

district, a matter of great concern. It is also sad that a friendly neighboring nation that is so close to our shore is having such a difficult time coming to grips with the development of democracy.

We will not have a full, fair election there on December 17, if the election comes off, because the legitimate opponents who would run have been intimidated. They have been threatened with being burned to death if they even registered and showed up. Most of the opposition offices are closed. There is no campaigning going on.

Fear is throughout the countryside. This is not the ingredient of a democratic election. Businesses are closed. Business is worse. The economy was bad. The economy is even worse than bad now. People just simply do not want to open their stores. They are afraid of mob violence.

The privatization effort that the Government was supposed to introduce has not worked. In fact, not only has it not worked, the Prime Minister who was its champion has resigned in protest. A new Prime Minister has come in and is going to a different policy.

So those agreements toward privatization, getting that country back on an economic footing, are not working out either. Apparently the government of President Aristide is going the wrong way on that.

The most important point is stability. Mobs are driving people into refugees, including Americans. When it gets to that state, it is time to reexamine.

PRINCIPLES FOR BUDGET BALANCING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am very pleased today so to see that we have worked out the continuing resolution between the President and the Republican leadership in Congress, and that Federal employees are back to work. I cannot emphasize enough how pleased the Federal employees in my district are. Some of them have been calling the district office to say that.

Even more or just as important, though, is the fact that the language of this agreement essentially says not only that will we have a balanced budget, but that the priorities which I have been talking about, which President Clinton, the Democratic leadership have been talking about, which are to preserve Medicare, to make sure that Medicaid is adequately funded, to make sure that this budget provides ample funding for education and also for the environment, that those are included in the language of the continuing resolution.

So I hope that with these principles that are so important to President

Clinton, so important to Democrats and important, I believe, to the American people, that those principles will guide the negotiations over the larger budget agreement that must be reached over the next few weeks.

Let me tell you why I think that these principles are important. I have said it over and over again on the floor, but I am going to say it again today. When we talk about Medicare and Medicaid, the Republican budget essentially says that those programs are going to be cut by a significant amount of money, 270 million for Medicare, 170 million for Medicaid, in order to pay for a tax break, mostly for wealthy Americans.

What I hope is that this budget agreement will put more money back in Medicare and Medicaid, retain the entitlement status particularly for Medicaid, so that those who have low incomes and are on Medicaid now, get their health insurance through the Government, will continue to be entitled to health insurance.

What we can do is reduce those tax breaks or eliminate those tax breaks for the wealthy in order to make sure that these programs continue the way they have.

PUTTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, what if an unpopular President shut the Federal Government down and no body outside the Capitol beltway, except CBS, NBC, and the New York Times cared one whit? Judging by what the people of eastern North Carolina told me, that's exactly what happened last week. So let me cut through the fog that engulfed the White House and its bagmen in the media and tell you what this fight is really about.

The shut down of the Federal Government was not about petty partisan politics. This fight was and is about our children and our future. It is about two competing visions of America. The first vision is Bill Clinton's America where an army of Federal bureaucrats tells us how to raise our families, spend our money, and run our businesses. The second is our America; and America built on the promise of individual liberty and material progress.

The new majority was sent to Congress by Americans frightened of Government and exhausted by its ravenous demands. We were sent here to bring runaway Federal spending to a standstill. We hammered out a budget plan to balance the books, chop the arms off the Federal octopus, and let the people keep their money.

Bill Clinton's opposition to the Republican budget tells America three things:

Bill Clinton did not want a balanced budget.

Bill Clinton was never serious about carrying through on his campaign pledge to cut middle-class tax rates.

Bill Clinton is an old-fashioned tax-and-spend liberal who genuinely opposes any reduction in Government spending.

We have had 800,000 Federal workers on furlough. Can the liberals continue to argue that these Federal workers and the thousands of idle programs they administer are critical to the health and safety of our country? Bill Clinton's own administration determined 67 percent of the employees at the Department of Commerce, 89 percent at Education, and 99 percent at HUD are nonessential. But Bill Clinton has done everything in his power to keep us from closing these and countless other Federal departments. So much for Bill Clinton, the new Democrat.

Americans don't miss these programs on Federal holidays and they certainly don't miss them today. For all of Bill Clinton's talk about the hazards of shutting down Washington, DC, most of these programs didn't exist prior to 1965 and America prospered for 190 years without them. By a margin of 10 to 1, my constituents in the second district of North Carolina said keep the nonessential parts of Government closed down and out of our lives.

Mr. Speaker, there was much more to this debate than furloughed Federal workers. Time is running out for our children. We are about to enter a new century on a collision course with catastrophe. If you add up all of the Federal entitlements, at their current growth rates and add the inevitable increase in the national debt, what you have in 20 years is a financial disaster of unimaginable magnitude. Entitlements plus our Federal debt will consume every last penny of Federal tax revenues. As it stands now, in 20 years our children and grandchildren will have half of their paychecks taken by Uncle Sam just to pay for entitlements alone. There will be nothing left for defense, law enforcement, foreign affairs, or agriculture, absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, we are about to drive America off the cliff. For the sake of future generations we must put our house in order now. It's good to get a pledge from the President to agree to a balanced budget in 7 years. But that can't and won't take place without real reform of welfare, Medicare, education, the legal system, and workplace and environmental regulation.

We've won the balanced budget debate. Now we have to win the details and make sure that the left does not continue big Government business as usual. Our children's future depends on it.

BUDGET COMPROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May